

REMARKS

In the Official Action, claims 11-21 were allowed, and claims 1-10 were rejected. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 11-21. In this Reply and Amendment, claims 1-10 have been canceled without prejudice and claims 11, 13-21 remain pending.

Claims 1 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by the Rickey reference, US Patent No.: 4,646,839. This rejection is respectfully traversed, however the rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-10 without prejudice.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over the Rickey reference in view of the Dotson reference, US Patent No.: 4,577,689. This rejection is respectfully traversed, however the rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-10 without prejudice.

Claims 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over the Rickey reference in view of the Tessier reference, US Patent No.: 6,951,246. This rejection is respectfully traversed, however the rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-10 without prejudice.

All pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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